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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

For Week Ending  
29 September 1948

Vol. III No. 38

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NEAR EAST/AFRICA BRANCH

(INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY)

Vol. III No. 38

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C O R R E C T I O N

The opening lines of the article on Arab refugees, which beings  
at the bottom of page 2, should read as follows:

The plight of the Arab refugees remains critical. While the UN may do  
something to solve the long-range problem of resettlement, only 17 of  
the 53 members to whom Count Bernadotte appealed for interim aid have  
responded, and the approximate 400,000 refugees are already confronted

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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## GREECE

The Greek Army's inability to subdue the guerrillas is being forcefully demonstrated by the vigor with which the Markos forces are now operating in every corner of Greece. Although current guerrilla activity lacks the dramatic character of last winter's attack on Konitsa or the recent defense of the Grammos area, its aggressiveness and its pervasive character indicate that the army's difficult summer offensive has brought no decisive results. Guerrilla bands are re-infiltrating areas once cleared by the army, including the Grammos sector; US aid projects are being sabotaged and equipment is being destroyed; static positions along the northern border are being stubbornly defended; the satellites are continuing to provide supplies and refuge; and over-all guerrilla strength is being steadily built up through forced recruitment and the arrival of reserves from the satellites. Undiscouraged by their Grammos losses, the guerrillas are more defiant than ever. They have recently broadcast a description of civil machinery they have established in the Peloponnese, and there is a possibility that Markos might, as a psychological coup, set up temporary headquarters there. Such a move would not only further dishearten the Greeks but would also give an appearance of validity, before the UN, to the contention that the Markos junta is representative of the Greeks and is not dependent on satellite aid. The Kremlin, undoubtedly encouraged by the guerrillas' energy, may be expected to continue supplying them with the view of prolonging indefinitely economic and social chaos in Greece.

## PALESTINE

US and UK efforts to persuade the Arabs and Jews to accept the Bernadotte Plan are having only limited success. The Arabs oppose the basic assumptions that Palestine be partitioned and that Israel be granted international recognition as a sovereign, independent state. The Provisional Government of Israel, on the other hand, accepts the basic assumptions but opposes such provisions as: (1) the repatriation of the Arab refugees; (2) the internationalization of Jerusalem; (3) the establishment of a "free port" at Haifa; and (4) the award of the Negeb to the Arabs. Israel will probably accept the Bernadotte Plan

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in principle but seek to have it amended during the General Assembly's deliberations. The Arabs may be expected formally to reject the plan but to cooperate in implementing certain of its provisions if the UN adopts the plan. The boundaries recommended by Bernadotte reflect, with a few exceptions, the current military situation in Palestine and may therefore be regarded as already in effect. Despite Jewish and Arab dissatisfaction with the frontier, UN endorsement may give it greater validity. The territorial question, however, is only one part of the Palestine issue; the resolution of other problems, such as the status of Jerusalem and the future of the Arab refugees, will require active Arab-Jewish cooperation. The equivocal attitude of both Arabs and Jews to the Bernadotte Plan as a whole gives little hope that such cooperation is possible. Both sides apparently look upon the meeting of the General Assembly as merely another battle in the long fight between Zionism and the Arab world. Even if the General Assembly adopts Bernadotte's report, the Arabs will continue to boycott Israel politically and economically, refuse to withdraw their armies from Palestine, and build up their strength for a future offensive against the Zionists. The Jews will continue to encourage the immigration of Jewish DP's and will still plan to extend their control over all Palestine. Without vigorous and continuing UN supervision, hostilities are certain to break out from time to time, and instability will become chronic throughout the Arab world.

The plight of the Arab refugees remains critical. While the UN may do something to solve the long-range problem of resettlement only 17 of its 53 members have responded to Count Bernadotte's appeal for interim aid, and the 400,000 refugees are already confronted with the prospect of spending a winter in the open or in tents without adequate food or clothing. Although organizations in the US have responded generously--the American Red Cross with \$450,000 in medical supplies already provided or forthcoming, the International Children's Fund with \$411,000, and the Church World Federation with clothing and vitamins, to name a few--the US itself has been unable to use official funds for the purpose. Transjordan alone of the Arab states is contributing food regularly to the refugees, and its contribution is sufficient for only 11,000 persons, on the basis of the International Red Cross requirement of 500 grams of bread per person per day. The British, although they directly contributed 100,000 pound sterling, have opposed US efforts to obtain International Refugee Organization aid. Two other suggestions, that the balances of the British Palestinian Government be converted into dollars for refugee relief, and that \$11 million in residual UNRRA funds be turned over to the Mediator, have still to be officially advanced.

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The Mediator's representative in charge of the refugee problem has been hampered by the problem of coordinating a multiplicity of agencies in the field as well as by basic shortages, and only limited progress has been made. The International Red Cross has inoculated about 470,000 persons with typhoid vaccine supplied by Egypt and South Africa, and it is now operating a typhoid isolation hospital at Ramallah and clinics there and at Bir Zeit. Nevertheless, no vaccine is available against typhus, which is now considered the greatest potential danger, and some 50,000 doses of anti-cholera serum—far too few for general inoculation—must be held for emergency use in the event of an outbreak. The International Red Cross plans to establish a principal tent camp at Jericho, which appears to be the most suitable site for the winter months because of its relatively mild climate and the abundant supply of water there. Meanwhile, however, much wandering back and forth between the present camps is now taking place, increasing the problem of administration.

Unless immediate improvement can be made in the refugee situation—a problem uppermost in the eyes of the Arabs—any consideration by the UN of Palestine problems will be viewed with even greater cynicism by the Arab world.

#### IRAQ

Iraqi internal security has shown some signs of deterioration recently despite the continuation of martial law. Demonstrations, which practically ceased during the prosecution of the Palestine campaign, have begun to recur, particularly in the Kurdish area around Sulimaniya, which is especially vulnerable because of the absence in Palestine of most of its normal garrison. The Iraqi Army's morale is bad because of its lack of ammunition and equipment and its fear that it will have to return to Iraq as a defeated force. As a result, the Regent, who risked the displeasure of the more moderate politicians by supporting the army's desire to continue the Palestine war at any cost, has now lost influence in military circles as well. A plot to assassinate the Regent has reportedly been already uncovered, and the Hashimite dynasty will undoubtedly face additional threats to its authority when the Iraqi people realize the extent of their defeat in Palestine.

The only bright spot in the picture is provided by the government's efforts to prevent a recurrence of last winter's grain shortage. With a foresight rare in the Near East, Iraq recently purchased 30,000 tons of wheat from Syria, after a projected Syro-Italian deal had fallen through because of a failure to agree on price. In addition, the government has requested an allocation of grain from the International Emergency Food Council, and has maintained its ban on grain exports.

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## INDIA-PAKISTAN

The administration of Hyderabad has been turned over to a military government set up by the Government of India with a view to restoring order and making preparations for eventual disposition of the state. Although the holding of a plebiscite is still under consideration, it appears more likely that the future of the state will be determined by a constituent assembly. The assembly, which will not be elected for some months, will obviously have a strong pro-Indian majority and will certainly favor accession to India. It will then have to decide on the manner of accession: whether Hyderabad will be made an integral part of India, or whether it will be split into several areas on a linguistic basis and merged with adjoining provinces which are already included in India. The Nizam, astutely disclaiming responsibility for the recent actions of his own government and formally "approving" all orders issued by the Indian military governor, may be allowed to remain as titular head of the state if (as is considered likely) it is incorporated as a whole into the Dominion of India. Meanwhile, the Razakars, local extremists recently outlawed by the Government of India, are carrying on guerrilla activities together with small Communist bands, to whom the Razakars have reportedly given arms.

Fear of an Indian conquest of Pakistan is currently pervading Karachi. The Government of Pakistan has decided to establish a civil defense department and to organize civil defense forces as part of a program to make Pakistan stronger. Demobilization in the regular armed forces has been suspended; former air force personnel have been recalled; and training of national guard units has been speeded up. Although there are no indications that India itself is considering an imminent invasion of Pakistan, a vast, united subcontinent undoubtedly remains the cherished dream of some Indian leaders. India's sudden and unwarranted confidence in its army following the Hyderabad venture, its belief that the Indian position vis-a-vis Kashmir has been strengthened by the UN Commission's findings, the death of Pakistan's Jinnah, and the lack of incisive leadership in the Government of Pakistan may impel India to adopt a more aggressive policy not only in Kashmir but toward Pakistan in general.

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